

MONDAY HIGHLIGHTS

@ Senior United Nations officials report assurances by Afghanistan and Pakistan that all necessary measures are being taken to comply with provisions of the settlement relating to Afghanistan signed in Geneva last month.

@ World Bank announces loan of nearly one billion dollars for development projects in India and Indonesia.

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The Secretary-General's Representative on the Settlement of the Situation relating to Afghanistan, Under-Secretary-General Diego Cordovez, today expressed satisfaction with the start of the implementation process of the Agreements signed in Geneva last month. He told news correspondents in New York that a "highly mobile" group of United Nations officers in the respective capitals of Afghanistan and Pakistan (Kabul and Islamabad) would be "deployed on a functional basis to address the specific requirements of particular situations".

Mr. Cordovez said 10 military officers in Afghanistan had observed the beginning of the departure of Soviet troops, and there would be a United Nations presence when the troops crossed the border from Afghanistan into the Soviet Union. He said military officers had also visited a number of locations in Pakistan and observed a "real determination to implement the accords as envisaged in the documents" signed in Geneva.

In a weekend statement issued in Islamabad and Kabul, the Deputy to the Secretary-General's Representative, General Rauli Helminen, said the two Governments had each informed him that they had taken all the measures needed to comply with the provisions of the Agreement. The Government of Afghanistan had declared its intention in its relations with Pakistan to "strictly and meticulously" respect the bilateral agreement on the principle of non-interference and non-intervention, and had said it had already taken steps to facilitate the voluntary return of refugees. General Helminen said that on the question of the "return of the Soviet limited military contingent", the Governments of Afghanistan and the Soviet Union had already reached agreements

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on the modalities, and the process would begin, in terms of the agreements, on 15 May. On his recent consultations in Pakistan, he said the Government there affirmed that all necessary measures and steps for compliance with the instruments of agreement would be completed in good faith by 14 May.

The United Nations Representative said that on the question of the voluntary return of refugees, a special agreement with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees would be signed within a week, and the Government of Pakistan expected that the needed information would be made available to assure the required conditions for the return of the refugees "in safety and honour". He said the Government of Pakistan had welcomed the setting up of the United Nations Good Offices Mission in Afghanistan and Pakistan -- known as UNGOMAP -- for carrying out the settlement.

At his New York meeting with correspondents today, Under-Secretary-General Cordovez said he would keep in touch with all parties concerned, in accordance with the terms of the Good Offices Mission, and would meet with General Helminen in Geneva next week to discuss the situation.

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The World Bank has announced loans amounting to some \$950 million for development projects in India and Indonesia. The biggest loan, of nearly \$400 million, will support a major project of railway modernization in India, aimed at upgrading the tracks on main routes linking New Delhi, Bombay, Madras and Calcutta. A further loan, of about \$260 million, will help India in efforts to develop hydropower sources and reduce electricity shortages in Karnataka State, which has suffered from frequent power outages. The loan will help in the construction of a 240 megawatt power station under a hydroelectric scheme.

Indonesia is to receive a loan of \$300 million to support policy reforms aimed at reducing trade barriers, relaxing private investment policies and stimulating economic recovery and growth. The reforms are part of an attempt to reduce Indonesia's heavy dependence on oil exports as a source of foreign exchange.

The World Bank and its affiliate for concessionary lending, the International Development Association, have also announced loans and credits amounting to \$170 million for projects in Hungary, Zimbabwe, Madagascar, Sri Lanka and Kenya.

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